THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years. Reduction in the incidence of mortality among children is one of the objectives of the Scheme. The Scheme which was launched in 1975 in 33 blocks, on an experimental basis, now covers 5652 blocks in the country. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 110 in 1981 per thousand live birth to 63 in 2002. Similarly, under-5 mortality has declined from 161 in 1983 to 87 in 2003. Moreover, as per evaluation of the ICDS Scheme by National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 1998-99, there has been a significant impact of the Scheme in reduction of IMR. It would, therefore, not be correct to say that the Scheme has been a failure.

It has, however, been a constant endeavour of the Government to make the Scheme more effective. The steps taken in this direction, in the recent past, include, proposed expansion of the ICDS Scheme to bring uncovered habitations/settlements within its ambit, as per Government's commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP); doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition; provision of Central assistance to States for Supplementary Nutrition; doubling of honoraria of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers; introduction of 'Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana'; a scheme of Awards for exemplary work done by Anganwadi workers; better coordination and monitoring at State, District, Block and Village level amongst ICDS, Health and Elementary Education functionaries, etc.

Government is also implementing several other programmes/schemes viz. National Diarrhoea Disease Control Programme; National Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Control Programme; Vitamin-A Supplementation; Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation; Promotion of Breast feeding; Complementary feeding from six months of life; Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness etc. to address the problem of infant and child mortality in the country.

Investment in Automobile Sector

438. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to invest Rs. 1700 crores in the automobile sector for upgradation/testing facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places where such facilities are proposed to be set up especially those falling in Orissa and the time-frame within which these would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) A National Automotive Testing and Research and Development Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) has been planned for creating much needed automotive testing infrastructure in the country. The project would have main facilities in the three-auto industry hubs located in the northern, southern and western parts of the country. The facilities are expected to help ushering in of global automotive safety, performance and emission standards in India. The expected investment on the project is around Rs. 1700 crore spreads over six years period from the start of the project. The exact locations of these facilities will be decided after consulting all stakeholders and giving due consideration to technical suitability.

Infrastructure Development in Cities

*439. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to show case, not only Mumbai as Shanghai of the country, but to show case India as a modern and fast developing country offering infrastructure facilities comparable to those created in China;

(b) if so, the broad features and details of the plan, indicating phase-wise details and targets conceived thereunder;

(c) the steps taken/being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the Policy outlined in the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, a comprehensive programme of